

Abstract 250

TITLE: HIV/AIDS and Prevention Among College Students in New York City

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OBJECTIVES: HIV/AIDS Education and prevention courses should be offered to college students. Some college students still believe that they are immune to HIV and are not necessarily protecting themselves from HIV infection. The investigator is extremely concerned about sexual practices among college students and the fact that a small percentage of students meet their spouses in college. As such, the investigator designed this study to demonstrate the need for HIV/AIDS education and prevention courses for college students.

METHODS: A structured pre and post questionnaire was administered to three distinct majors at York College (City University of New York). The majors were Health Education, Accounting and Business and Gerontology. The questionnaire was designed to test knowledge, attitude and behavior of these students.

RESULTS: 113 students participated in this study 75 percent women and 25 percent men. The Health Education major did better on the post test measure of knowledge about AIDS than Gerontology or Business students. As expected the Business students showed no difference between pre and post testing. The Gerontology students decreased in average knowledge about AIDS between pre and post test counseling ($F_{4,76}; p < .0005$). The students were asked the degree that they worry about getting HIV. There was no significant difference between the groups in the degree that they worry about getting HIV infection (Chi Square 29.76; $p < .2331$)

CONCLUSIONS: The students in general are not worried about getting HIV despite the impact of the epidemic in our society. Business students scored very low in all pre and post tests. The findings in this study clearly indicate the need for future research on this population and the need for HIV/AIDS education and prevention in colleges across the country.

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